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15 DEC 1973

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Honorable John L. McLucas
Director, National Reconnaissance Office
Room 4E864 - Pentagon
Washington, D. C. 20301

Dear John,

25X1 The decision at the last ExCom meeting approving in principle the
development of an [redacted] vehicle provided you clear authority
to initiate a concept study of alternate designs and collection strategies
to be sure that we select the most cost-effective approach for our future
25X1 [redacted]

As you proceed with this study, I assume you will be considering
a number of different design options which will necessarily provide for
somewhat different collection capabilities and involve different costs.
Given other variables in the development of our collection strategies and
our budget stringencies, I would like to ensure the most careful considera-
tion of these options before commitment is made to a particular one. I
therefore request that you consult closely with General Allen in the
preparation of the concept study and keep appropriate members of my
staff informed of the major design alternatives under consideration.

In addition, I would appreciate your giving the user community
a full exposure to the results of the study when it is complete, and I
would like to be briefed on the recommendations before commitment to
a development program is made.

Sincerely,

/s/ Bill

W. E. Colby

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